

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SSGT. SKY MOTE

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 05, 2014

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Staff Sergeant Sky Mote, a man who faithfully served and then made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. He was recently awarded the Navy's second highest commendation for valor, the Navy Cross.

Growing up in El Dorado, California, Sky enjoyed 4-H, Civil Air Patrol, and loved camping with his family. At Union Mine High School, he lettered in track and cross country. From an early age, Sky was motivated to join the military by a deep desire serve his country. Upon graduation, he promptly enlisted in the Marine Corps.

Sky spent nine years serving his country in the United States Marine Corps, including a deployment to Iraq and two deployments to Afghanistan. To those who knew him, it is no surprise that Sky not only served, but served with gallantry and meritorious distinction. Sky was awarded the Navy Cross, a Purple Heart, the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, a Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons and three Good Conduct Medals.

On August 10, 2012, Sky was serving with the prestigious 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion as an Explosive Ordnance expert in Helmand Province of Afghanistan. During an attack inside the base perimeter by a rogue Afghan policeman, SSgt. Mote rushed into action rather than escaping to safety. Sky's courage and initiative in engaging the gunman, while exposing himself to mortal gunfire, halted the enemy assault and undoubtedly saved lives that day.

Sky Mote will be deeply and sorely missed. He leaves behind his mother and father, as well as four brothers. The United States is blessed to have young men of character and heroism to defend our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, SSgt. Sky Mote lived and died as an embodiment of the virtues that built and continue to preserve our country and it is my privilege to rise to honor his memory today.

HONORING ALEXANDER MILES BURNS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Miles Burns. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Miles Burns for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE AND RECREATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3590) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, our nation's public lands have always required balanced management for a variety of uses for the American people. And while I am pleased to see a public lands bill on the Floor of this House that acknowledges uses beyond oil and gas drilling, I regret that it once again fails to meet the balance necessary to responsibly manage our lands for generations to come.

I don't think there is any disagreement in the House over the importance of outdoor recreation on public lands. More than 75 percent of federal lands are open to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. However, in order to ensure that these areas are available for the future, all uses must be balanced with conservation. And today's bill would override critical environmental protections while depriving hunters and fisherman from offering input on land use decisions.

The bill also replaces the only federal advisory committee with a voice for the hunting community with a new council, removing representation from hunting outreach and education groups and sportsmen and sportswomen at-large in favor of representatives from the firearms, ranching, and agriculture industries. Finally, it would allow for guns at certain Army Corps facilities, without exemption for public safety or national security concerns.

I have joined with Mr. Holt and members of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Caucus to offer an amendment to this bill to clarify that the Secretary of Interior has the authority to plan for a changing climate, which poses a real threat to outdoor recreation through sea level rise, drought, and wildfire. It will also lead to changes in hunting seasons, migratory patterns, and invasive species populations. While we should be taking action here

in Congress to address climate change and its impacts on recreational hunting and fishing, this amendment ensures that we don't limit the Secretary's ability to plan for these developments. I urge my colleagues to support it.

While there are parts of this bill that would get unanimous support from the House, it contains deeply flawed provisions that jeopardize the condition of public lands. I urge my colleagues to reject it and work on a consensus bill that guarantees recreational opportunities for generations of American sportsmen and women.

RECOGNIZING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NOAA AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHARK CONSERVATION ACT OF 2010

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that NOAA has decided not to interfere with the progress California and other states have made in ending the cruel practice of shark finning. Federal preemption of state law should be extremely rare—the federal government should not stop states from raising the bar on environmental protection, and I'm glad NOAA has agreed to revise its position on our state's landmark shark fin law.

I submit an exchange of letters between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE,

Silver Spring, MD, February 3, 2014.

Mr. CHARLTON BONHAM,
Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sacramento, CA.

DEAR MR. BONHAM: Thank you for your February 3, 2014, letter regarding your assessment of the relationship between the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000 and the Shark Conservation Act of 2010, and the California Shark Fin Prohibition and the impact of California's law on federal shark harvesters.

NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region confirms that revenue from the sale of sharks harvested in federal waters off California derives mostly from the sale of the meat of the shark, not from the sale of fins sold after the shark is legally harvested and landed with fins naturally attached. Further, you confirm that all federal fishers who land sharks in California, including those who operate in federal waters pursuant to a federal license, are also required to hold state licenses and are therefore exempt from the ban on possession of shark fins. Based on the full information about the California law set forth in your letter, and the current facts specified

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